

Health and Environment Committee

From: Kenneth Thorpe [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 11 January 2021 5:14 PM
To: Health and Environment Committee
Subject: Extension of Chief Health Officers exec Covid powers submission.

Categories: Submission

SUBMISSIONS RE THE EXTENTION OF CHIEF HEALTH OFFICERS EXECUTIVE COVID POWERS.

I wish to make a submission on my behalf as an individual.

Hello my name is Kenneth Thorpe
Of [REDACTED]
Email..... [REDACTED]
Phone [REDACTED]

I strongly object to the extension of the Chief health officers powers under Covid.

Cruelty abounded under these conditions and here is my story and the cruelty continues months later.

Under the emergency powers decisions could be made quickly and even snap decisions could be made. In September I entered quarantine shortly after the border with NSW closed. I am a poor pensioner who had been helping my aged mother in NSW, (EDEN NSW) for months prior to the border closure through the bushfires evacuating her twice, she barely walks. And arranging her future healthcare, meals and making her home more safe and comfortable in her old age. As mentioned I myself am a disabled pensioner but I do my best for mum.

At that time greater Sydney was nominated by the Chief health officer as an exclusion zone to enter Qld. I wasn't in greater Sydney so I figured I had time to return to Qld and could drive around greater Sydney if needed to Qld. Before I knew it I had a few days to get from Eden NSW back to Qld in my car with my possessions to beat the entire state being declared locked out. I raced to get mums care etc finalised and pack and get over the border. It was a mad rush to get home to Qld with my car before the border closed. I did apply for an exemption but I heard nothing. Actually I heard nothing for months about an exemption until after I ended up in quarantine. But I'm not Tom Hanks or an AFL footballer so I guess I'm not special. I knew I couldn't drive through greater Sydney so I had to bypass it and go from Eden NSW across to Canberra and up through Western NSW to avoid Sydney. In the rush and having to go through the country a Roo bounced in front of my car just 5 kilometres from the border and I rolled my car, just 5 k short of the border.. I was stuck until I could sort the car out with the insurer and work out what to do with my possessions. During this time the Chief Health Officer advised the closing of the border and only residents could fly back in no cars. What was I to do.... No car and my goods in NSW and I'm a pensioner I can't store goods for months I don't have the money. So I abandoned everything I own except for as much as I could fly into Qld with in a suitcase. It was devastation. I was still in trauma from the car crash, worried about Mum in NSW, trying to get to my girlfriend in Qld and I'm someone with decades of mental illness problems such as PTSD and more. I was a mess by the time my insurer organised for me to go into Qld after the crash. Still traumatised I was marched like a criminal from the airport to quarantine. Still wondering

what had happened to my exemption request, I never heard a word. But as long as Tom Hanks was ok I guess.

I suffered greatly in quarantine. I was placed in a tiny room, no balcony and in the traumatised condition I was in I really suffered. Police there were threatening because I kept complaining I needed out. Fresh air breaks were few.... And to be honest, police doctored the books on how many breaks people were getting and flat out lied about a few things. Clearly I wasn't coping but no one in quarantine addressed my condition. Friends were worried about my mental health, my G.P and more. But police and Health staff basically left me to rot. I was desperate I had to get out, I contemplated suicide and had to call an ambulance twice. Police had worded up the ambulance staff that somehow I was a trouble maker and the way they spoke to me was like I was wasting thier time. I wasn't I was really sick with PTSD and having just had a car crash and lost everything I was in a really bad way. My G.P had sent me a script for Valium, surely Qld health could see something needed to be done. I as taken to hospital on one occasion and I felt like I was using up services because I knew they would return me to quarantine but I had to get out even if it meant an ambulance just to breathe. The ambulance officer even said to me you will be returned back here it's just using services that could be directed elsewhere she said. She seemed somewhat hostile after being worded up by police that I was somehow a trouble maker. I wasn't..... I really wasn't I was suffering. I contacted qld health time and time again sometimes several times a day. My local member over and over, the premier and so on. No one was listening. I was clearly on the verge of suicide in there looking back now. What happened to me was cruel just cruel and poorly thought out.

Does it end there.... Well no.... I got a \$2800 bill for the pleasure of that torture. And I was so upset by what happened to me I lodged a complaint with Qld Human Rights meaning I missed the time frame because the Bill and my time in quarantine was in question to apply for a fee waiver so I was denied the waiver. And with the stress of everything I also missed the deadline to appeal that decision, yet I had sent an email requesting an appeal but apparently not through the official channel.

Now back to the exemption I asked for to cross the border, here is the irony Qld health took months to process it well after I had finished the quarantine, so it's ok for them to be late and miss deadlines but when I missed the deadlines to ask for a waiver there was no room to move pay up or else?

The people in charge of this mess do not deserve to have an extension of these powers. People are suffering and months later I still am. I do have serious mental health issues I was in hospital yesterday nearly admitted. But here's something interesting I told the doctor psychologist what I had been through yesterday in quarantine. She said quote..... A lot of people are fronting hospital because of the issues around quarantine. My question would be , how many? It this creating a different kind of pandemic, mental health? Clearly these issues of the powers handed to the Chief Health officer have not been thought out properly. People continue to suffer. I wonder if anyone has suicided in quarantine or how long it will be until someone does?

No this isn't right these powers are misused and creating a lot of pain with the risk of self harm etc. And abuse is happening in the billing system and with police etc guarding people.

I would like to come and address this personally with you. And I ask that I be given the chance to do so. You can't understand the pain unless you see the people hurt by this in person. It cannot be allowed to continue please do not allow the continuation of these powers the cruelty is epic as are the failures.

Give me a voice

Finally the powers allow for a generalisation of the quarantine bill totals. Part of my bill was \$900 for laundry I think? I only had my sheets and towels changed twice at my request. And I was the one who had

to change the linen they just dump it at the door, that's disgusting charging pensioners like that who are already tormented. These powers are creating abuses. I am a clear case of that.

But may I just wish Tom Hanks, Dani Minogue, Afl footballers and families, the former Broncos Coach, Lindsay Fox's son, Wealthy Yachties, Keith Urban and wife Nicole, and other well healed people the best with the pain of restrictions placed on them it must have been horrible in penthouses and resorts and getting applications for exemptions processed on time. You can't allow this bias either...

No don't give an extension to these cruel and discriminatory powers. It is obvious what has happened. You are lucky I wasn't found in a pool of blood in a quarantine room or someone else. It has to end. When you give people dictators powers, guess what people use them.

Please note my address at the time of quarantine was [REDACTED]

Kenneth Thorpe
[REDACTED]